

## More vaccines, fewer mask rules as US keeps fighting COVID

By JEFFREY COLLINS and  
MIKE SCHNEIDER  
Associated Press

The United States is steadily chipping away at vaccine hesitancy and driving down COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations to the point that schools, governments and corporations are lifting mask restrictions yet again. Nearly 200 million Americans are fully vaccinated and the nation's over-65 population, which bore the brunt of the pandemic when it started nearly two years ago, is enthusiastically embracing vaccines. Nearly 98% of the over-65 population has received at least one COVID-19 shot and more than 25% of them have gotten boosters, just weeks after they were authorized. The improving metrics could get a boost from President Joe Biden's workplace mandate unveiled Thursday and the launch of COVID-19 shots in elementary-age students. Seniors also are playing a role in getting other family members vaccinated. Erin Lipsker plans to get her 8-year-old daughter and 5-year-old son vac-

nated as soon as possible so they can see her parents and her 98-year-old grandmother. An added motivation is that Lipsker was treated for cancer two years ago, and her 8-year-old daughter, Kennedy, has asthma.

"The more children and adults are vaccinated, the quicker we will be able to resume a new normal. I want that for my kids. I want that for our planet," said Lipsker, of Spokane, Washington. "I think I will feel much safer around our family. I have a 98-year-old grandmother that my kids adore. I will feel safer having my kids around her, and my parents."

But the pandemic has proven hard to control. In the U.S., winter is coming and diseases like COVID-19 often spread easier with people indoors and closer together. The worst surge in the nation happened last winter, before the vaccines were widely available.

While cases around the world are declining, the World Health Organization said this week new cases jumped by 6% in Europe,



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compared with an 18% increase the previous week. The U.S. plans to open its borders to international travelers Monday. The trends in the U.S. have health officials feeling better for the first time in months and hoping the progress will continue as long as a new variant doesn't pop up or the rate of newly vaccinated people declines. But they have also been

down this road before and have come to the conclusion that COVID-19 is going to be an issue for years to come. "It is going to be endemic. It is going to exist in our population for a long period of time," said Deborah Fuller, a professor of microbiology at the University of Washington. "You saw what looked like an inflection point coming and, boom, here came the

delta variant." There are still plenty of encouraging signs in the U.S. Pfizer announced Friday its experimental pill for COVID-19 cut rates of hospitalization and death by nearly 90% among patients with mild-to-moderate infections and it will soon ask the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to authorize its pill.

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### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
<b>TICO KOCK</b> STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	<b>ANGELA FLORES</b> VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>JEAN PAUL</b> SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>PAULA RIDERSTAP</b> SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>RICKY THOMAS</b> GUITAR 7 - 9pm	<b>RICKY THOMAS</b> GUITAR 7 - 9pm	<b>ANGELA FLORES</b> VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm
<b>PAULA RIDERSTAP</b> SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	<b>Happy Hour</b> 12 - 1 / 4 - 6 / 9 - 10		<b>KARAOKE</b> <b>HAPPY HOUR</b> 9:00 - 11:00pm	<b>WATER'S EDGE</b> RESTAURANT & BAR		

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# More vaccines, fewer mask rules as US keeps fighting COVID

Continued from Front

The number of Americans in the hospital with COVID-19 is averaging around 42,000, the lowest number since the beginning of August, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The hospitalization dip matches a dip in overall cases.

But deaths, which lag behind increasing case counts because it can take weeks for the disease to kill, continue to mount. The U.S. is averaging 1,100 coronavirus deaths per day, down from more than 1,600 two weeks ago.

More than 750,000 people have died from COVID-19 in the U.S. in less than two years, about the population of Denver. The latest 50,000 deaths happened in the past month.

With hospital beds emptying, case

counts declining and an increase in vaccinated people, however, it has been a slow return to a new normal. Louisiana's Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards last week ended a face covering requirement almost everywhere but schools, saying he was "optimistic, relieved that the worst of the fourth surge is very clearly behind us now." Memphis also ended its mask requirement, and so did a number of schools around Atlanta as the spread of the virus decreased. Amazon ended a mask mandate for most vaccinated workers in places where local or state rules don't require them. Hawaii's governor ended pandemic capacity limits on businesses like restaurants, bars and gyms, but owners must continue to enforce social distancing rules.

Color-coded virus maps that were

a sea of red in September have started to turn yellow and blue in recent weeks, indicating a much slower spread of disease. The CDC says about 350 counties are now experiencing moderate or low transmission, many of them in the Deep South.

In the U.S., nearly 60% of the population — more than 193 million people — are fully vaccinated. More than 21 million have received a booster dose, and those numbers are soaring each day. The average number of Americans getting booster shots has reached nearly 800,000 per day. That compares with about 265,000 people per day getting their first shot.

It's still too early to know how many children under 12 have gotten shots in the three days they have been available.

Lagging behind are Southern

and more rural states and that rural divide even extends to states with higher vaccination rates like Maine, where more than 70% of the population is vaccinated.

Many of the rural states are starting to experience cold weather that is driving people indoors and creating ripe conditions for more virus spread.

In Maine, the five counties with the lowest vaccination rates are rural ones along the border with Canada, where rates hover just over 60%.

"One theory is that residents of those counties feel less at risk of infection because they interact less often with others. Vaccine hesitancy among residents of those counties also seems to dovetail with political identity factors," said Robert Long, a spokesperson for the Maine Center for Disease Control. □

## New United Way CEO on mission to improve workplace culture

By **DAN PARKS** of The Chronicle of Philanthropy

Angela Williams has taken the helm of the nation's largest charity with a powerhouse resume behind her — and a long list of challenges in front of her. As the first woman and the first African American to lead United Way Worldwide, she must deal with the fallout of accusations by three former employees of a toxic workplace culture that led to an internal investigation and a recommendation that the organization improve its workplace culture, morale, and procedures for preventing and punishing discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Shortly after the release of the report, longtime United Way Worldwide CEO Brian Gallagher announced his departure.

Around the same time, the United Way Worldwide headquarters reduced staffing by 19% through attrition, voluntary agreements, and position eliminations, according to a spokeswoman, who noted that much of United Way's fundraising last year produced money earmarked for COVID relief or other

needs, and not necessarily operational expenses.

Williams previously led Easterseals, where she broadened its governing structure to include a wider variety of voices at the top levels of the organization. Her resume also includes stints at the YMCA of the USA, the Bush-Clinton Ka-

trina Fund, the Senate Judiciary Committee, and eight years as a lawyer and active-duty member in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Williams says she wants to make United Way Worldwide, which recently topped the Chronicle of

Philanthropy's list of America's Favorite Charities, a moral leader when it comes to equity and workplace culture. In addition to addressing the organization's internal shortcomings, she says she won't shy away from pressing its long list of heavyweight corporate supporters to

make sure that their equity efforts are not a passing fad. At the same time, Williams must oversee the ongoing transformation of United Way Worldwide's key workplace fundraising efforts in an era when many workers have shifted to remote work, perhaps permanently. □



Associated Press



# Family, friends gather to honor trailblazer Colin Powell

By **ROBERT BURNS** and  
**MATTHEW LEE**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Friends, family and former colleagues gathered Friday at Washington National Cathedral to honor Colin L. Powell, the trailblazing soldier-diplomat who rose from humble Bronx beginnings to become the first Black chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and later served as the first Black secretary of state.

The funeral on a sunny and chilly day drew dignitaries and friends from across a wide political and military spectrum. They included former presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama, former secretary of states James Baker, Condoleezza Rice and Hillary Clinton, former Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and the current chairman of the Joint Chiefs, Army Gen. Mark Milley, as well as other service chiefs.

As guests gathered in the cavernous cathedral that has hosted the funerals of several past presidents, including Dwight D. Eisenhower, the U.S. Army Brass Quintet played a range of tunes, including "Dancing Queen" by Abba, a favorite of Powell's. As Powell's wife, Alma, and other family members were seated, the quintet played a hymn called "Mansions of the



**Associated Press**

Lord." President Joe Biden attended but was not scheduled to speak. Two recent presidents did not attend — Bill Clinton, who is recovering from an infection, and Donald Trump, who Powell had criticized. Eulogists were Madeleine Albright, who was Powell's immediate predecessor as the nation's top diplomat; Richard Armitage, who was deputy secretary under Powell and had known him since they served together in the Pentagon during the Reagan administration; and Powell's son Michael. During her tenure as ambassador to the United Nations during the Clinton ad-

ministration, Albright sometimes clashed with Powell, although they became good friends. Both have recalled the time, during his final months as Joint Chiefs chairman, when she argued for a U.S. military intervention in the Balkans, asking why the United States had built a superb military if it couldn't be used in such circumstances. Powell recalled being so irritated by her statement, "I thought I would have an aneurysm." Powell's view was that the United States should commit its military only when it had a clear and achievable political objective, a key element of what be-

came known as the Powell Doctrine, which embodied lessons to take from the U.S. failure in Vietnam.

Powell died Oct. 18 of complications from COVID-19 at age 84. He had been vaccinated against the coronavirus, but his family said his immune system had been compromised by multiple myeloma, a blood cancer for which he had been undergoing treatment. Funeral attendees Friday were required to wear masks, although not all did. The story of Powell's rise to prominence in American life is a historic example to many.

In his autobiography, "My

American Journey," Powell recalled a post-Depression Era childhood in the Hunts Point section of New York City's South Bronx, where he was a mediocre student — happy-go-lucky but aimless. He caught the military bug during his first year at the City College of New York in 1954. Powell was inspired by seeing fellow students in uniform, and he enrolled in the school's Reserve Officer Training Corps.

"I felt distinctive" in uniform, he wrote. He would go on to achieve distinction in a pioneering Army career.

Although he was only 4 when the United States entered World War II, he had vivid memories of the war years. "I deployed legions of lead soldiers and directed battles on the living room rug," he wrote — a fantasy forerunner of his Army years.

Powell would serve 35 years in uniform. Commissioned in 1958 as a second lieutenant, he served as a platoon leader in what was then called West Germany, and in 1962 was deployed to Vietnam for a year as an adviser to a South Vietnamese infantry battalion. During that tour he was wounded; he served a second tour in Vietnam in 1968 and afterward held a variety of assignments at home and abroad. □

## Aaron Feuerstein, famously generous mill owner, dies at 95

**BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP)**

— Aaron Feuerstein, who owned a textile mill in Massachusetts and famously continued to pay his workers even after a devastating fire, has died. He was 95. Feuerstein, the former owner of Malden Mills in Lawrence, died Thursday night of complications from a fall days before at his home in Brookline, his son Daniel Feuerstein told The Boston Globe for a story Friday. "My father lived a full life," Feuerstein told the newspaper. "I have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of condolences

from the entire Malden Mills community. The love went both ways."

Malden Mills had been a major textile factory known for its Polartec synthetic fleece fabric.

The sprawling brick mill complex burned in December 1995, but Feuerstein continued to pay his 1,400 employees for months after the blaze shuttered operations.

He also committed to rebuilding the factory, which his grandfather had opened in 1906 and his family had operated for three generations.

"I'm not throwing 3,000 people out of work two weeks before Christmas," Feuerstein told the Globe at the time. Lawrence City Council President Marc Laplante told the Globe that Feuerstein "exemplified good corporate citizenship" and left a positive legacy in the largely immigrant mill city near the New Hampshire state line.

During an interview with 60 Minutes in 2002, Feuerstein was asked what he hoped his tombstone would read. "Hopefully it'll be, 'He done his damndest,'" he said. "You know, that I didn't



**Associated Press**

give up and I try to do the right thing." Malden Mills reopened in 1997, but the company, later rebranded as Polartec, struggled in the ensuing years.

It filed for bankruptcy in 2007 and was eventually

sold to a private equity firm, which closed the mill and moved its diminished operations to Tennessee. Milliken, a South Carolina-based industrial manufacturer, acquired the Polartec brand in 2019. □



# Florida considers ousting mockingbird from honorary perch

By CURT ANDERSON

Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) —

After nearly a century on its lofty perch, the northern mockingbird may be singing its last melodies as the state bird of Florida.

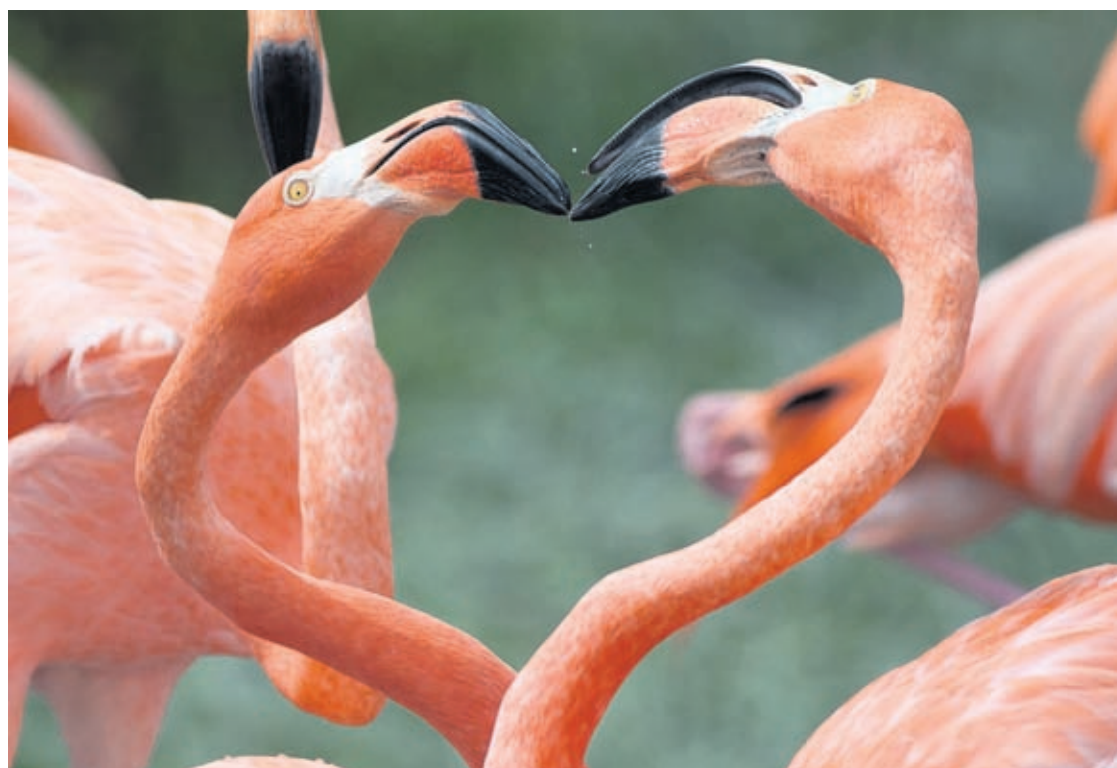
An effort is taking flight to replace the far-ranging musical mockingbird with a bird that is more identifiable as distinctly Floridian.

"Part of what we're working to do is highlight that Florida has these incredible species and we should recognize the bird that most represents Florida," said state Sen. Jeff Brandes, a St. Petersburg Republican whose legislation would strip the mockingbird of its title. "To me, it's a fun conversation to have."

Suggestions for a new state bird are all over the map, but four main contenders have emerged: the Florida scrub jay, flamingo, osprey and roseate spoonbill. The white ibis, swallow-tailed kite and wood stork also get mentioned. Some joke it should be the construction crane.

The gray-and-white mockingbird, celebrated in literature and music, has been Florida's state bird since 1927, when the state was much more agricultural and less populated on the coasts. It may not be quite as representative of today's bustling, modern Florida — and four other states also call it the state bird.

But it has supporters, including Marion Hammer,



Associated Press

the lobbyist in Florida for the National Rifle Association and executive director of the Unified Sportsmen of Florida. She wrote in a recent opinion piece that the mockingbird deserves our continued love.

The mockingbird can sing up to 200 different tunes and mimic artificial sounds like car alarms. Its Latin name translates to "many-tongued thrush."

"The mockingbird is a well established, independent, prolific bird that doesn't need government protection or our tax dollars to survive," Hammer wrote. "It can be seen, watched, studied and enjoyed by children and adults on any given day in all areas of Florida."

The same cannot be said of the Florida scrub jay, described by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology as the sole bird species found only in Florida. Trouble is, there are only about 4,000 of them concentrated in central Florida and the federal government lists them as threatened.

Brandes did not suggest a mockingbird replacement in his legislation. But separate bills in the state House and Senate would elevate the blue-headed scrub jay to the honorary post.

One of those bills is sponsored by Sen. Tina Polsky, a Boca Raton Democrat. She argued in a recent editorial that the scrub jay "represents the hard-working, family-oriented nature of

our residents." "Friendly, cooperative, family-oriented, bold, curious, talented builder, protective, shares chores, stays close to home — does this sound like someone you would want to represent your community?" Polsky wrote.

Not to be left out, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission voted in early October to support naming the fish-preying osprey to represent the state. The commission did the same thing in 2009, after a poll of 77,000 school students resulted in a victory for the large raptor commonly seen building big nests or roosting on light poles near bodies of water. "That doesn't necessarily mean that that's the way

it's going to go, if you know the Legislature," said commission chair Rodney Barreto. "But at least we can put a marker down."

The bright pink American flamingo is a different story. Often linked to Florida in popular culture — think state lottery ticket logos, plastic lawn ornaments or the "Miami Vice" opening credits — for decades it was considered a foreign interloper.

That changed in recent years when researchers proved flamingos are native to the Sunshine State but were mercilessly hunted to near extinction in the early 20th century. They have since rebounded, bolstered by captive flocks like the one at the Hialeah horse track, but exist mainly in the Everglades, the Florida Keys and around Biscayne Bay in Miami.

The roseate spoonbill, like the flamingo a large, pink wading bird, is more widespread in the state and is not listed as threatened. They have unique rounded bills used for scooping food in shallow waters and usually live near shorelines or on islands.

To Julie Wraithmell, executive director of Audubon Florida, any debate about Florida birds is a good thing — especially if it raises consciousness about what's needed to protect them such as habitat conservation, water quality improvements and Everglades restoration. □



Associated Press

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TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — A truck driver who ousted the powerful New Jersey Senate president in the election previously posted online calling Islam "a false religion," comparing vaccine

mandates to the Holocaust and defending rioters at the Capitol.

Republican Edward Durr apologized on Friday after media outlets highlighted the posts. His victory over Steve Sweeney, widely

## Surprise NJ Senate winner says sorry amid scrutiny of posts

regarded as the second-most powerful Democrat in state government, in Tuesday's election shocked the state's political establishment. Durr spent a paltry sum on his campaign.

On Thursday and Friday, media reports highlighted posts Durr had made on Twitter and Facebook, including some critical of immigrants, boasting of defying state COVID-19 mask mandates, and attacking female Democratic elect-

ed officials like Sen. Elizabeth Warren and then-Vice President-elect Kamala Harris.

Durr issued a statement Thursday night to radio station WHYY, and Friday to the website New Jersey Globe apologizing for the posts.

"I'm a passionate guy and I sometimes say things in the heat of the moment," Durr said in identical comments to both outlets. "If I said things in the past that

hurt anybody's feelings, I sincerely apologize."

Twitter showed Friday that Durr's account had been suspended, though it is not clear if Durr himself deactivated or deleted the account.

In a screenshot of a 2019 Twitter post captured by a WNYC reporter, Durr wrote, "Mohammed was a pedophile! Islam is a false religion! Only fools follow Muslim teachings! It is a cult of hate!" □



# A landmark as South Africa's ANC dips below 50% support

By GERALD IMRAY

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

(AP) — South Africa's ruling African National Congress party has received less than 50% of votes in nationwide elections for the first time, emphatically confirming the declining popularity of the once-revered organization that was led by Nelson Mandela and freed the country from apartheid. The final results of Monday's local government elections were announced Thursday night and saw the ANC win 46% of votes. It remained the largest party, with its closest opposition getting 21.83%.

It's a humbling new reality for the ANC, which has governed South Africa and dominated its politics ever since the end of the racist apartheid regime in 1994. Although the ANC's support has slipped in recent years, this time more South Africans voted for other parties in an unprecedented shift. "The people have spoken," said President Cyril Ramaphosa, current leader of the ANC. In an attempt to soften the stinging rebuke for his party, Ramaphosa hailed the elections as "a sign that multiparty politics is flourishing in South Africa" — a country where Blacks weren't allowed to vote until 1994.

Ramaphosa also recognized the frustrations of



Associated Press

millions in Africa's most developed economy who previously put their faith in the ANC but still have poor housing and sanitation, are hit with regular electricity blackouts, are threatened by high levels of violent crime, face record unemployment of over 30%, and see the governing party repeatedly embroiled in corruption scandals while the economy has sunk into recession.

"Over the past few weeks, we have all spent time with South Africans from all walks of life, meeting them in the streets and being invited into their homes," Ramaphosa said. "They told us about leaking houses, of frustration at electricity

cuts, of feeling unsafe because of crime, and of being despondent after years of not working."

The local elections decided the makeup of municipal councils that will elect mayors and run towns and cities and be responsible for delivering the basic services that many desperately need.

The ANC now only holds a governing majority in two of South Africa's eight major metropolitan areas and must form coalitions if it is to govern in five other major cities, including the economic hub Johannesburg, the capital Pretoria, and the previous ANC stronghold of Durban on the east coast. The opposition Dem-

ocratic Alliance retained control of the city of Cape Town with an outright majority.

More than that, the results provided an indication of the sentiment of South Africans ahead of national elections in 2024, when the ANC's position in national government will be at stake after 30 years in power, political analyst Angelo Fick said.

"The signal from the South African population is that they can imagine a situation beyond the ANC," said Fick. The results of these local elections should tell the ANC "they are a party like everyone else," he said.

That is something the ANC has previously appeared

unable to accept, opening itself to accusations of arrogance and living off its reputation as the party that delivered freedom. Former president and party leader Jacob Zuma once said the ANC "will rule until Jesus comes back" and government minister Gwede Mantashe said this week — even as election results showed a sharp drop in support — that the ANC "will be here forever."

How the ANC deals now with its reality-check is crucial, Fick said, because it tests whether the party, which also faces stark internal divisions, can retain its "civic responsibility" even when not in power in more towns and cities. If it doesn't, South Africa, seen by many as a leader of democracy for the rest of Africa, risks political instability, Fick warned.

South Africans remain uneasy after the country was rocked by its worst violence since the end of apartheid in July, when the jailing of former leader Zuma for contempt of court exacerbated the internal divisions in the ANC. The internal divisions, combined with lingering anger at widespread poverty, sparked a week of deadly unrest. There were riots, looting and the burning of shopping malls and factories in two provinces and more than 300 people died. □

# Western Australia sets 90% vaccination target for reopening

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— While people are now able to travel freely in Australia's more populated east, COVID-19-free Western Australia will maintain its tight restrictions into next year, state leaders said Friday.

Western Australia is the largest state, covering a third of Australia's land area. It also has the nation's lowest vaccination rates, in part because the state has had few infections and life has been relatively normal throughout the pandemic. Western Australia is the only

Australian state or territory that does not intend to reopen this year. Vaccinated Australians have been free to travel the world through east coast airports in coronavirus-affected Sydney and Melbourne since Monday when a 20-month-old international travel ban was lifted.

Western Australia Premier Mark McGowan on Friday set a vaccination target of 90% of the population aged 12 and older for the border restrictions to be relaxed. The milestone was forecast to be reached in late January or early February.

McGowan said he would set a date for the state to reopen once 80% of the target population had been vaccinated, which is expected to happen in mid-December.

Once that reopening date was set, it would stand even if the vaccination rate fell short of 90% by then.

"As far as world standards go, a rate of 90% will be an amazing achievement," McGowan said.

"Given our current vaccination rates, these targets are realistic and within our sights," he added.

Only 63.7% of the target population in Western Aus-

tralia was fully vaccinated, according to state data. Nationally, 79.6% of the population aged 16 and older were fully vaccinated, according to federal government data released on Friday.

Western Australia's sparsely populated north has some of the lowest vaccination rates in the country.

McGowan said parts of the state could be isolated by intrastate borders if their vaccination rates continued to lag. Such areas include the Pilbara region where the nation's lucrative iron ore mining operations are based.

"Cutting off the Pilbara, or any region for that matter, is not something I want to do," McGowan said.

"But if that's what is required to protect the local community and local industries, then we will take that step based on the health advice at the time," he added.

Government modeling showed that reopening that state at the 90% vaccination benchmark rather than 80% would mean COVID-19 cases occupying 70% fewer hospital beds, 75% fewer intensive care beds and 63% fewer deaths, McGowan said. □



# Former security aide to Macron sentenced to 1 year in prison

By **NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY** Associated Press

**PARIS (AP)** — A former security aide to French President Emmanuel Macron who triggered controversy by assaulting a protester at a 2018 May Day march was convicted Friday of illegal violence and other offenses and sentenced to a year's imprisonment.

A Paris court found Alexandre Benalla, 30, guilty of deliberate violence in the 2018 incident in the capital, at which Macron was not present. He was also convicted of illegally carrying a gun at a 2017 Macron campaigning event, and illegal use of diplomatic passports after he left the president's service.

Benalla received a three-year prison sentence — two years of which were suspended — and will be allowed to spend the remaining 12 months at his mother's home provided he wears an electronic tag.



Associated Press

Benalla's actions, and the way Macron's office responded to them, had caused the French leader's first political crisis.

In withering comments, the court's judge Isabelle Prevost-Desprez said Benalla

had displayed "a sense of omnipotence and impunity ... sowed doubt concerning the leadership of the Elysee and damaged the image of the presidency."

At the heart of the controversy was Benalla's murky

role at the presidential Elysee Palace, where a police security contingent is charged with protecting the president. There was intense media coverage and a televised parliamentary inquiry put top Elysee of-

ficials, normally invisible to the public, at center stage. Criticism centered on why the aide had used violence against the demonstrator in the May Day confrontation as police stood by watching. Benalla was allegedly at the demonstration as an observer.

"It was war," Benalla told investigators, insisting that as an observer he had no intention of acting violently but intervened because it was his civic duty.

"You cast shame on the job of a police officer," Prevost-Desprez said Friday, addressing Benalla in court.

At the end of 2018, the French press revealed that Benalla held two diplomatic passports, used for travel to African countries, after being dismissed from his job at the presidential palace. Benalla did not speak during the sentencing, and he did not answer questions from reporters outside afterwards. □

# UN rights body holds urgent session in wake of Sudan coup



Associated Press

By **JAMEY KEATEN**

Associated Press

**GENEVA (AP)** — The United Nations' top human rights official on Friday condemned actions by military leaders in Sudan following a coup almost two weeks ago and called on them to "step back" to let civilian rule return.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet decried excessive use of force by security forces that has left at least 13 people dead and more than 300 injured since the coup. She also expressed

concern about "numerous" arrests and disappearances of civil society and protest leaders, journalists, and activists.

Bachelet spoke during an urgent Human Rights Council session on Sudan. Britain, the United States, Germany and Norway led a push to commission an expert to monitor the situation in the African country.

The Human Rights Council debate took place while the U.N. still recognizes the ambassador from the deposed Sudanese government as the country's of-

ficial representative in Geneva. No representative from among Sudan's top generals seemed to be attending the session.

"Events since the coup have recalled a somber page in the country's history when freedom of expression was stifled and human rights were comprehensively repressed," said Bachelet, in reference to the 30-year rule of Sudan by former autocrat Omar al-Bashir.

"I urge Sudan's military leaders, and their backers, to step back in order to allow the country to return to the path of progress towards institutional and legal reforms," she added.

The Oct. 25 coup came more than two years after a popular uprising forced the military's removal of al-Bashir and his Islamist government in April 2019. It has upended the country's fragile planned transition to democratic rule. Tens of thousands have taken to the street to protest since the takeover.

Massive anti-coup protests

were in several instances met with excessive use of force, including use of live ammunition, as documented by the Joint U.N. Human Rights Office in Sudan, particularly in the capital, Khartoum, and the city of Omdurman.

According to medical sources, at least 13 civilians have been killed by military and security forces since Oct. 25, and more than 300 have been injured.

Sudan's top general, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, and the forces loyal to him who dissolved Sudan's transitional government and detained other government officials and political leaders, face increasing international pressure. Western nations have condemned the coup.

"Fundamentally, this is about respect for democracy and human rights," Simon Manley, Britain's ambassador in Geneva, said in a statement sent to The Associated Press. "I hope that fellow council members will stand in solidarity

with the brave people of Sudan today." A draft resolution by the four Western countries presented earlier this week was considerably revised Friday. While the draft would have created a new, one-year post of a "special rapporteur" to monitor the situation, the final text asks Bachelet to appoint an expert to monitor the situation — until civilian rule is restored. The expert would work with her regional office in Khartoum and report back.

The resolution passed in the 47-member body without a vote. The final text also jettisoned a call for immediate return to a civilian-led transitional government under Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok, who was among those detained in the coup. Instead, it urges a "restoration of the civilian-led transitional government" without naming Hamdok, who is under house arrest but has been allowed to meet with U.N. and international diplomats as part of mediation efforts. □



# Clean up your mess, young people tell climate talks

By SETH BORENSTEIN and

FRANK JORDANS

Associated Press

GLASGOW, Scotland (AP)

— The generation of young people who will inherit a warmer future is telling the generation that caused carbon pollution to clean up its mess.

But they fear that message isn't getting through.

"It's our future. Our future is being negotiated, and we don't have a seat at the table," said 20-year-old Boston College student Julia Horchos.

Young people are attending the talks in Glasgow, Scotland, in unprecedented numbers — and world leaders have credited their activism with reinvigorating negotiations aimed at avoiding catastrophic climate change.

But even among those who are inside the venue, nearly all are here as observers, like Horchos — kept outside the rooms where the real decisions are being made.

"I'm urging all leaders and decision makers to listen to the calls that are coming from young people, reflect that in the (...) negotiations and, of course, in the ac-



Associated Press

tion taken domestically by individual governments," said Alok Sharma, the British official chairing the talks.

Yet on a day dedicated to young involvement, the midday highlights were a speech by 73-year-old former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and a news conference by 77-year-old John Kerry, the U.S. climate envoy.

Outside, tens of thousands

of people, most of them under 30, made clear they fear being seen — and even celebrated — but not heard.

In her several days of going to sessions, Horchos said only one had time for members of the audience like her to talk — and that was a special youth event. Sure, Diana Bunge, a 21-year-old also from Boston College, got to hear from three

CEOs of multinational corporations, and Horchos met Kerry, but they didn't get to make their case for their future.

"When I arrived at COP26, I could only see white middle-aged men in suits," Magali Cho Lin Wing, 17, a member of the UNICEF UK Youth Advisory Board, said at a press event. "And I thought, 'hold on is this

a climate conference or some corporate event?' Is this what you came for? To swap business cards?"

Still, they know it's important to be at least near the room where it all happens.

"It's my life," Horchos said. "It's definitely my responsibility to step up."

Outside the negotiations, the worry was the same, but the way it expressed was different.

In Glasgow's Kelvingrove Park, mostly young activists carried banners with slogans such as "I have to clear up my mess, why don't you clear up yours?" and "Stop climate crimes."

The Fridays For Future protest was part of a series of demonstrations being staged around the world Friday and Saturday, to coincide with the talks in Scotland.

Some at the rally accused negotiators of "greenwashing" their country's failure to curb greenhouse gas emissions by trumpeting policies that sound good but won't do enough to prevent dangerous temperature rises in the coming decades. □

## Croatia decides new restrictions as virus surges

By DARKO BANDIC

Associated Press

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)

— Croatian authorities will limit gatherings and widen the use of COVID-19 passes to curb soaring infections after the numbers of infected people hit new records again on Friday.

The country's crisis team said after a meeting that the new rules for gatherings will apply starting Saturday while the use of COVID passes will take more time to prepare. Prime Minister Andrej Plenkovic complained that vaccination is going "at snail's pace" after reaching some 50% of the population of 4.2 million.

"That is not normal," Plenkovic said, according to the state HRT television. "We have had a pandemic for nearly two years, more than 5 million people have



Associated Press

died, and we have a situation where some of our citizens still do not realize the danger COVID-19 poses." Like much of Central and Eastern Europe, Croatia has seen a huge rise in infections and hospitalizations in the past weeks due to low vaccination rates and relaxed virus rules.

Most countries in the region have vaccination rates of about 50% or less, which is lower than the European

Union average of about 75%.

Alarmed by the raging virus, some Croats who so far have not gotten vaccinated could be seen lining up Thursday evening to get a jab at a vaccination point in the capital Zagreb.

Drago Coric said he had been "skeptical" about vaccines but changed his mind after daily new cases peaked to several thousand. □



Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

Join us for an unforgettable experience.



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## Harbour House Aruba officially open! 80 % sold, construction in final phase: Harbour House Aruba is ready for you!

ORANJESTAD — It was the official Grand Opening of Harbour House Aruba last Thursday, June 10th. The residence consisting of 94 units is located in the former Mar Azul building, right in the heart of Oranjestad. The two brothers Irwin J. Perret-Gentil and Alberto Perret-Gentil from PERING, one of the largest, privately-owned Real Estate and construction firms in Venezuela and Aruba, officially opened their new jewel in the presence of the invitees.

Harbour House Aruba is the ultimate smart investment or personal living space. A state-of-the-art lobby, an ocean-view gym, bar service, rooftop with 360 degrees view of Oranjestad, on-site parking, 24-hours security and a top floor lounge area with Jacuzzi's. Cherry on the cake: an infinity pool with a panorama on the harbour.

Harbour House Aruba offers cosmopolitan living in a beach-chic environment. The residence is fast-selling their studios, two-bedroom and three-bedroom units for many reasons but in a nutshell we can name: great location, great value for your money and great quality. To see exactly what still is available you may check the website which shows you a map with sold and open units. Updates on construction are also on forehand. When you live abroad stopping by to check upon your purchase is not that simple, yet with the monthly updates on their website, it is a lot easier.

### Hottest condo in town

Aruba Today talked to one of the owners from New York: "This is going to be the hottest condo building on the island because this is the very first thing people see when they arrive here by cruise ship and it is the only one combining the ocean, port and city. We feel so happy to be the owner here, also, the organization is amazing. We



are being accommodated in every way, the attention you get is extraordinary."

### Boardwalk

Living here includes being part of Oranjestad and all its benefits. Around the Harbour House building a boardwalk is constructed allowing you to stroll along the waterfront and enjoy a drink on a terrace or dive into the art gallery, souvenir store or even have dinner facing the atmospheric harbour of Oranjestad.

The process of purchase is easy, whether you are abroad or on the island. Make an appointment through the website to visit the sales office when you are here. In that way you can actually see the unit, materials and amenities. If you are not on the island the website can help you out and the sales office is happy to send you all needed documentation for you to orientate. When agreed upon the unit you sign an agreement and move forward with the down payment which is \$ 50.000. At receipt of that amount the sales is closed and the price will not change. You know what you get and will not be surprised by price changes. The payment agreements after the deposit will be discussed and are flexible. Harbour House Aruba assist also in financing by banks.

For more information: <https://harbour-housearuba.com> □



## Emerald Ambassadors honored at Playa Linda Beach Resort



**PALM BEACH** — Recently, ATA representative Mr. Mario Arends had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 35+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The Honorees were Mr. Carlo and Mrs. Denise Gallo from New Jersey. Who have been coming to the island for 40 years consecutively and received the honorary title of Emerald Ambassadors

The honorees stated that they love coming to the island for it's beautiful weather, friendly people, the staff at the Playa Linda Beach Resort and the safety and security that the island provides.

Arends together with Yvette, representative of Playa Linda Beach Resort, handed over some presents to the honorees in the presence of family and friends and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their home away from home for so many years.

On the pictures are the honorees with their respective family and friends, but also one from their first visit to Aruba 40 years ago.

Carlo & Denise 'Masha Danki' for choosing Aruba as your home away from home! □



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Sunday!Get a **FREE** Alhambra  
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## Aruba's Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort Aligns at UN's COP26 with Global Leaders to sign the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism Owner/CEO Ewald Biemans is the Caribbean's launch signatory

**EAGLE BEACH —** Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort announces today that it has become a signatory of the Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26). Owner/CEO Ewald Biemans was invited to join global hospitality leaders and Zurab Pololikashvili, Secretary-General of the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), in signing the Declaration at the launch event. Biemans is the Caribbean's first launch signatory, however every hospitality entity through the Caribbean region as well as worldwide is invited and asked to monumental step as a sector to fight climate change. Biemans is also attending COP26 as a winner of the Global UN 2020 Climate Action Award where he will be presenting the resort's journey beyond achieving net zero on Nov. 9.

Designed for the hospitality industry The Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism unites travel and tourism behind a common set of pathways for climate action, aligning the sector with global commitments and catalyzing collaborative solutions to the many challenges facing businesses and destinations globally. The Glasgow Declaration encourages the acceleration of climate action in tourism by securing commitments to reduce emissions in tourism by at least 50% over the next decade and achieve Net Zero as soon as possible before 2050.

Become a signatory Every hospitality entity of any size throughout the world spanning accommodations, transportation, tour operators and more, is encouraged to become a signatory. As a signatory of the

Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism, those who Bucuti & Tara has committed to aligning its actions with the latest scientific recommendations, so as to ensure its approach remains consistent with a rise of no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100. It also has agreed to deliver or update climate action plans within 12 months, align plans with the five pathways of the Declaration (Measure, Decarbonize, Regenerate, Collaborate, Finance), report publicly on an annual basis, and work in a collaborative spirit, sharing good practices and solutions, and disseminating information. "It is an honor to represent Aruba and the Caribbean as a launch signatory of the Glasgow Declaration for Climate Action in Tourism here at the United Nations' COP26," shares Ewald Biemans, Owner/CEO of Bucuti & Tara Beach Resort, Aruba. "The Glasgow Declaration provides the guidance and clear goals that I hope prompts all of us through the Caribbean to join together to help to protect our vulnerable, yet beautiful paradise, and to protect our people in working towards a better future."



### About the Glasgow Declaration

The Glasgow Declaration on Climate Action in Tourism brings together the latest research and global expertise to galvanize climate action. It is hosted within the One Planet Sustainable Tourism Program's website, supported by recommended actions for tourism stakeholders across the world to consider as part of their action planning, alongside other resources. As the declaration states: "A just transition to Net Zero before 2050 will only be possible if tour-

ism's recovery accelerates the adoption of sustainable consumption and production, and redefines our future success to consider not only economic value but rather the regeneration of ecosystems, biodiversity and communities." The need for a globally consistent approach for climate action in tourism has been made clear, notably through research into CO2 emissions carried out by UNWTO/ITF and released at the UNFCCC COP25 in December 2019. This showed that transport-related emissions from tourism were forecast to increase by 25% by 2030 from 2016 levels, against the current ambition scenario. In 2020, the One Planet Vision for a responsible recovery of the tourism sector was adopted with the aim of emerging from the COVID-19 crisis both stronger and more sustainable. Climate action is a central element of the Vision, which calls for monitoring and reporting CO2 emissions from tourism, promoting the introduction of science-based targets, accelerating the decarbonization of tourism operations, and engaging the tourism sector in carbon removal. □



# Covid Test Center at Paseo has the best experience!

**PALM BEACH - Don't spend a single moment of your long awaited holiday in Aruba thinking about your return testing. The Covid Test Center Aruba located at the Paseo Herencia Mall is your travel ally. Just sit back and relax knowing that, when the time comes, their professional staff will make this process a breeze for you. No need to make an appointment or dread the nasal swab; you'll be done with it in a matter of minutes and back to fun stuff.**

Some regions require proof or certification of negative COVID-19 status before allowing people into or out of the country. With rules and guidelines varying greatly from country to country, the safest approach is to have recent proof you are COVID-19 negative before you get to the airport. Cov-

id Test Center @ Paseo provides both PCR and Antigen type testing with results within hours; and both are accepted by the CDC. Covid Test Center @ Paseo is conveniently located at the Paseo Herencia Mall in the heart of the Palm Beach Strip and right across from the Playa Linda and Holiday Inn hotels; only two doors from T.G.I. Friday's. We are open seven days a week, between 9 am and 9 pm. This gives you the choice to walk in when it better suits you. It can be at the start or at the end of your day. No appointment needed here.

The friendly technicians at Covid Test Center @ Paseo will take your information as we are aware it is imperative that this shows accurately on the results. For a seamless process, please verify that you have provided the correct email to



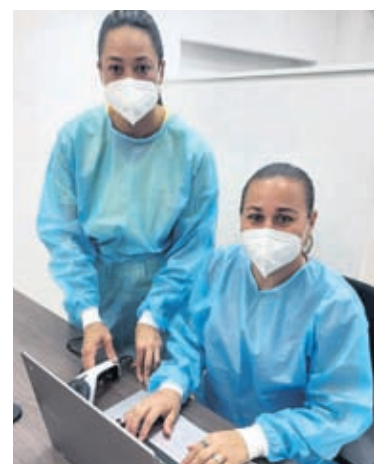
deliver the certificate. Said certificate can be printed at our offices should you wish to do so.

We understand that nobody enjoys doing a nasal swab. That is why we take pride in our reputation of being the gentlest swabbers on the island. First, we will not rush you just to go to the next in line. Through clear given instructions we want you to feel comfortable. When you are ready, we will promptly but ten-



derly take a proper sample. Many elsewhere traumatized people praise the difference it makes to test with us.

Forget about counting hours before your flight, our turnaround is fast! For travel to the US, for example, a day before will suffice. A great game plan is to test first, then head out for an evening of dining, shopping and entertainment at the Paseo Herencia Mall, home of the water and



lights show in the evenings. By the time you are back at the hotel, your results will be ready in your inbox.

A PCR test costs \$75 and results are ready the next day, while Antigen test costs \$35 with same day results. If you are staying at an off-high-rise area property, you can benefit from the free parking our customers receive at the mall lot.).

For more information follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. □

## Attractions and Sightseeing locations in Aruba



**ORANJESTAD — There are enough sightseeing locations on the island to fill up a month-long vacation. Aruba's beaches are a big attraction, and although it's great to spend long days just relaxing on the beach and listening to the ocean, there are also plenty of opportunities to get to know Aruba's most attractive sights, historical and natural attractions, and museums. Check out these attractions you don't want to miss!**

### Blue Horses in Downtown, Oranjestad

This series of 8 sculptures were created by native Aruban artist Osaira Muyale. She named the project Paarden Baai, which translates to "Horse Bay". The statues were installed in 2015 and pay homage to the rich history of Aruba's horse trading industry. In the 17th Century Aruba was used by many countries (Europe, South America, Caribbean islands, and the Mediterranean) as a trading post. The most popular being cattle and horse trading. Horses were once the most important sources of livelihood for Aruba.

For 4 centuries the horse and cattle trade ran strong. At any given time Aruba was home to herds of thousands of horses that roamed the island. Aruba being the perfect trading post encouraged an extremely diverse culture and is



the reason almost all Arubans speak more than 1 or 2 languages.

Each of the 8 bright royal blue horses is unique and carries its own name and personality. Pictured above is the mare Sinforosa, but you can also find Saturnina, Escapia, Rosalina, Eufrosina, Ambrosio, Bonifacia, and Celestina. The sculptures embody strength, nobility, grace, beauty and freedom. They represent the historical moment where the horses jumped from the ship decks into the Caribbean and swam to the Aruban Bay.

When you visit Aruba be sure to explore downtown Oranjestad and try to find all 8!

### The Lourdes Grotto

Named in commemoration of the famous French religious landmark, was created under the guidance of a priest named "Erkamp" and parishioners in the year 1958. The grotto, a shrine built into the rocks is located in Seroe Preto, just off the main road to San Nicolas.

A statue of the Virgin Mary, weighing 700 kilos, was hoisted into place in the grotto. Every year, on February 11 (feast of Lady of Lourdes), a procession leaves from the St. Theresita church in San Nicolas to the grotto, where a mass is performed. The grotto is located road-side and



can be visited daily. Just make sure you park safely in the event you wish to stop for pictures at this location.

### Bubali Bird Sanctuary

Watch more than 80 species of migratory birds from the Bubali watch tower, overlooking their resting and breeding area. The observation tower allows birdwatchers to get a true birds' eye view. Migratory birds, looking for lush vegetation in which to nest, find an oasis within the Bubali Bird Sanctuary. The nearby water treatment facility empties into two inter-connected man-made bird ponds. Birds that inhabit the sanctuary include herons, egrets, gulls, skimmers, coots, ducks and more. Located within walking distance of the Palm Beach resorts, the Bubali Bird Sanctuary offers some unique bird watching opportunities. You can't miss it as it is located just in front of the historical Old Dutch Windmill. Make sure to bring your camera as many of these birds will randomly fly by the observation tower giving a little show. This is a great place to bring kids for a unique and possibly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be so close to the untamed.

The happiest island in the Caribbean is so much more than just sun, sand and sea. □



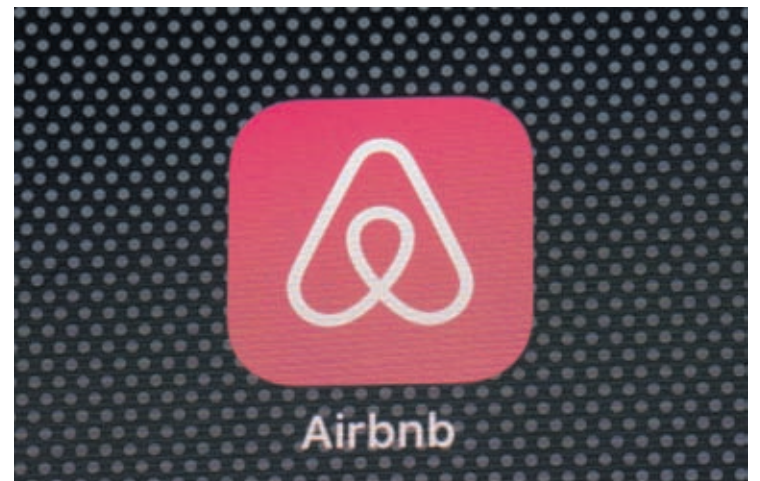
# Airbnb reports \$834 million 3Q profit as revenue soars

By **DAVID KOENIG**  
AP Business Writer

Airbnb said Thursday that it earned \$834 million on record revenue in the third quarter as more people got vaccinated and went back to traveling. When companies closed offices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, that freed some employees to work remotely using video technology, and Airbnb said the result was a huge jump in rentals. The San Francisco-based home-sharing company said in a letter to shareholders that it believes the trend of work flexibility will accelerate. Airbnb noted that major companies including Ford and Amazon have announced policies that will allow for more remote

work, and it predicted others will do the same. Those changes in work habits, aided by videoconferencing technology, have helped generate more long stays on Airbnb. The company said stays of 28 days or longer were growing even before the pandemic but have picked up more rapidly in the past year. Long stays now account for 20% of Airbnb nights booked in the most recent quarter, up from 14% two years ago. Airbnb said its net income was nearly four times the \$219 million that it earned a year earlier and nearly triple the \$267 million it reported in the third quarter of 2019. Revenue rose 67% from a year ago and 36%

from the same quarter in 2019, to \$2.24 billion. Analysts expected \$2.06 billion, according to FactSet. However, cancellations remained higher than they were before the pandemic. The third quarter is usually Airbnb's best. It often loses money in the other quarters — the company lost \$407 million in the first nine months of this year. Airbnb said bookings in North America grew 10% and Latin America was up 20% over the same period two years ago. Bookings in the wide swath of Europe, the Middle East and Asia have not yet recovered to 2019 levels, and business in the Asia-Pacific region remained depressed because of the slower recovery of international travel, however. On the cost side, Airbnb's sales and marketing spending more than doubled, and "product-development" expenses also rose sharply. The company is investing in a feature that helps customers book travel when they don't have a specific destination or time in mind. Shares of Airbnb Inc. gained about 1% in after-hours trading after rising 3% to \$178.45 in the regular session. They have gained 22% this year. □



Associated Press



Associated Press

By **MIKE CORDER**  
Associated Press  
**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** — The Dutch Supreme Court on Friday handed Russia at least a temporary victory in an appeal of what's believed to be the world's largest award in an arbitration case after former shareholders of bankrupt Russian oil giant Yukos accused the Kremlin of taking down the company

to silence its CEO, a fierce critic of President Vladimir Putin. The decision further extends what already has been a yearslong legal battle between Russia and former Yukos shareholders. It quashed a lower court ruling, effectively setting aside a \$50 billion award made to the former shareholders in 2014 and sending the case to another court

## Russia gets partial win in \$50B case over bankrupt oil giant

in Amsterdam to consider Russian claims that the shareholders committed fraud in the original arbitration hearings. "We will study the Supreme Court ruling, but are confident that the Court of Appeal in Amsterdam will dismiss the baseless allegations raised by the Russian Federation, and the arbitral awards will be upheld," said Tim Osborne, chief executive of GML, the holding company of former Yukos majority shareholders. The Russian prosecutor-general's office welcomed the ruling but said "it is regrettable" the high court didn't dismiss the award outright. "The Russian Federation expects that the Amsterdam Court of Appeal will interpret the remaining controversial issues in accordance with international law ... and take comprehensive measures to protect the rights and legitimate interests of Russian taxpayers," the office said in a statement. An international panel of arbitrators concluded in 2014 that Moscow seized control of Yukos in 2003 by deliberately crippling the company with huge tax claims. The move was seen as an attempt to silence Yukos CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky, a vocal Putin critic. Khodorkovsky was arrested at gunpoint in 2003 and spent more than a decade in prison as Yukos' main assets were sold to a state-owned company. Yukos ultimately went bankrupt. The state launched "a full assault on Yukos and its beneficial owners in order to bankrupt Yukos and appropriate its assets while, at the same time, removing Mr. Khodorkovsky from the political arena," the arbitrators said in their 2014 ruling. The original case was handled under the Permanent Court of Arbitration, which is headquartered in The Hague. As a result, Russia appealed the arbitration decision in the Netherlands. The Dutch Supreme Court ruled Friday that a lower appeals court in The Hague wrongly dismissed — on procedural grounds — Russia's claim that "shareholders committed fraud in the arbitral proceedings." □

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## Portugal protects employees with new rules on home working

**LISBON, Portugal (AP)** — Portugal's parliament approved Friday new labor laws on working from home, introducing additional protection for employees who do their job away from company premises. The new rules are a response to the trend of more staff working from home

during the COVID-19 pandemic, Portugal's Socialist government said. It said it sees benefits in working from home but wanted to adapt labor legislation to it. The regulations bring new penalties for companies that disturb the privacy of staff or their families, and obligate employers to

compensate staff for work-related expenses incurred at home. Companies should avoid contacting workers outside office hours, except under exceptional circumstances, the new rules say. At least every two months, staff should meet with their superiors to prevent worker

isolation. Also, companies should pay workers for additional personal expenses incurred at home, such as electricity or internet bills. Lawmakers voted down a measure that would have granted workers the right to turn off professional communication systems when off work. Companies not complying with the rules will be liable for fines. Approval of the rules was one of last measures taken by parliament before it is dissolved ahead of a snap election in January, when workers' rights are likely to be one of the major issues. □

Companies not complying with the rules will be liable for fines. Approval of the rules was one of last measures taken by parliament before it is dissolved ahead of a snap election in January, when workers' rights are likely to be one of the major issues. □



## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

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Yesterday's answer

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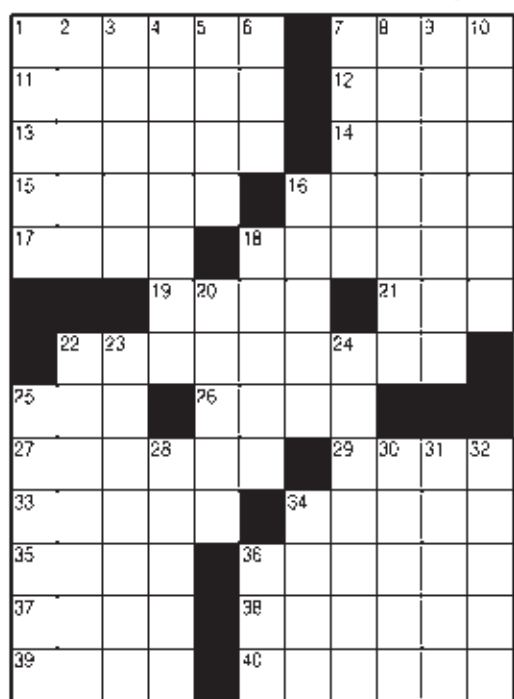
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11-6

A X Y D L B A A X R  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-6

CRYPTOQUOTE

HNS XDY MDOY QNJI XNYUJNC

NZ HNSJ COZI KII FDHOYM

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POXAOLNY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THE PAST THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE ARE REALLY ONE: THEY ARE TODAY. — HARRIET BEECHER STOWE

## Japan game maker Nintendo sees no quick fix for chips crunch



Associated Press

By YURI KAGEYAMA

AP Business Writer

**TOKYO (AP)** — The shortage in computer chips needed to make the Nintendo Switch machine is a serious problem unlikely to be resolved soon, the president of the Japanese video-game maker said Friday.

"The extremely tight situation remains, and the future is uncertain," Shuntaro Furukawa told reporters.

Furukawa said the dearth of computer chips, which is affecting manufacturing of many products, was behind Nintendo's decision to cut its forecast for Switch sales for the fiscal year

through March to 24 million machines from an earlier 25.5 million units.

He said plans for the next fiscal year and beyond were even more difficult to predict.

Production and shipping disruptions related to the coronavirus pandemic are plaguing electronics manufacturers, automakers and many other industries. Kyoto-based Nintendo Co. said the lack of chips was also hurting design efforts for its next game machine. Nintendo is developing a device to follow the Switch, although it has not said when sales will begin.

Software development,

including applications for mobile devices, has not been hindered by such problems, said Shigeru Miyamoto, the company's star game designer.

The Super Mario movie, a collaboration with U.S. studio Illumination, won't be released until December 2022, Miyamoto said. Other movies may be in the works.

Furukawa said Nintendo hopes that goods and theme parks will help coax people to become interested in his company's games. Nintendo faces competition both from longtime rivals such as Microsoft Corp. and Sony Corp. which offer their own game consoles, and also from newcomers to gaming, like Netflix and Google.

On Thursday, the company reported a 19% profit drop for the fiscal first half, mainly because of a significant boost in profit the previous year, when people stuck at home by the pandemic turned to its products. Nintendo's April-September profit totaled 171.8 billion yen (\$1.5 billion), down from 213 billion yen. □

## Brazil's awaited 5G tender yields billions in investment

By DIANE JEANTET

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) —

Brazil held its much-anticipated auction for build-out of the nation's fifth-generation wireless network on Thursday, with the open question of whether China's Huawei telecommunications company will be involved.

The technology promises faster speeds, less lag when connecting to the network and the ability to connect more devices to the internet. But the ambitious auction also aimed to address the country's profound digital inequalities, forcing winning bidders to build or improve wireless infrastructure in underserved areas.

The auction was not yet finished on Thursday, but had



Associated Press

already yielded pledges for over 30 billion reais (over \$5 billion) in investment from mobile phone operators such as Claro, Tim and Telefônica, the owner of Vivo. Overall, the government expects the auction, which could continue into Friday, to bring in as much as 50 billion reais. Authorities, leg-

islators and National Telecommunications Agency have been planning the auction for years.

Much of the debate around 5G has been whether wireless operators would be allowed to partner with Chinese telecom giant Huawei at a later stage, in the face of strong U.S. opposition. □



# China lashes out at press freedom survey in Hong Kong



Associated Press

By ZEN SOO

Associated Press

**HONG KONG (AP)** — China on Friday criticized a press freedom survey from the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents' Club that found nearly half its members were considering leaving the city.

The survey said the members were concerned about a decline in press freedoms under a sweeping national security law imposed by Beijing following massive anti-government protests in 2019.

Eighty-three of the 99 journalists polled said that the working environment had "changed for the worse" since the law was introduced last June. The law outlaws subversion, secession, terrorism and foreign collusion to intervene in the city's affairs, and has since been used to arrest over 120 people in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

"These results clearly show that assurances that Hong Kong still enjoys press freedom, guaranteed under the Basic Law, are not enough," FCC President Keith Richburg said. "More steps need to be taken to restore confidence among journalists and to make sure Hong Kong maintains its decades-long reputation as a welcoming place for the international media."

In a statement, the Commissioner's Office of China's

Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong warned the FCC to stop making "noise" and accused the organization of being "black hands" that intervene in the city's affairs.

"There is no absolute press freedom in the world that is above the law," the statement read. "It is a common international practice for countries to supervise the news media working in their own countries in accordance with the law."

The survey comes as authorities are cracking down on political dissent in Hong Kong. Most of the city's prominent pro-democracy activists are currently in jail. Critics say the security law has rolled back freedoms promised to Hong Kong for

50 years when it was handed over to China in 1997.

The former British colony was previously known for its vibrant press freedoms, and for decades has served as regional headquarters for many English-language news outlets.

The national security law has been used against journalists in the city. The pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily was forced to close in June after millions of dollars in assets were frozen and several top editors and executives arrested.

The New York Times has transferred some of its staff from Hong Kong to Seoul due to the uncertainties about the city's prospects for journalism under the security legislation.

China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Friday at a regular news briefing that the rights of foreign media and journalists in Hong Kong will be "fully protected" as long as they report in accordance with the law. □

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## NFL Prospect Watch: QB Willis gets chance to raise profile

By **MARK LONG**  
AP Sports Writer

Malik Willis refused to settle for a backup role. Liberty's biggest star and potentially the first quarterback selected in April's NFL draft left Auburn after two seasons of mop-up duty and transferred to play for coach Hugh Freeze in Lynchburg, Virginia. It was one of the best decisions of Willis' football career, maybe even of his life. Once relegated to watching Bo Nix and Joey Gatewood compete for a starting spot, Willis is widely regarded among the best pro QB prospects in college this season. He is the latest top prospect The Associated Press is spotlighting each week during the season with help from Reese's Senior Bowl executive director and former NFL scout Jim Nagy. Willis, a senior from Atlanta,

gets a chance to raise his profile when the Flames (7-2) play at No. 15 Ole Miss (6-2) on Saturday. It's a matchup that features Willis and another top QB prospect, Rebels junior Matt Corral.

"He is our asset on offense," said Freeze, who is returning to Oxford for the first time since Ole Miss fired him in 2017. "He's got to play really well. He's got to take care of the football. But he gives you a fighting chance to score points offensively along with our other kids. 'You've got to have a trigger guy if you're going to beat a team whose depth chart is deeper and probably more talented than yours. ... It'll hinge on how well he plays and how well I coach him.'"

### SIZE & STATS

Willis is a 6-foot-1, 225-pound speedster with a huge arm. He has completed 66.7% of



Associated Press

his passes for 1,986 yards, with 21 touchdowns and six interceptions. He also leads the team with 684 yards rushing and nine scores. One downside: he has been sacked 29 times in nine games.

### BIGGEST MOMENT

Tied 35-all at Virginia Tech last November, Willis completed an 8-yard pass on a fourth-and-6 play to set up a 51-yard field goal that

gave the Flames their biggest victory in program history. He threw for 217 yards and three TDs and ran for 108 yards and another score in the stunning upset by the 15-point underdogs.

### SCOUT'S TAKE

Nagy loves Willis' muscular build, saying he reminds him of Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts. "He's got good to very good arm strength," Nagy

said. "It's hard to get him on the ground. He's improved in his discipline, sticking with his reads. He's scrambling around to make a play down the field; he's not looking to tuck it and run, which I saw more of as a junior. He's grown that way."

### DRAFT WATCH

Early mock drafts have Willis going to Atlanta, Washington or Philadelphia — all potentially in need of a QB and projected to pick in the top 10.

Nagy said Willis will have competition to be the first QB drafted in 2022, part of a talented group that includes Corral (if he comes out early), North Carolina's Sam Howell, Pitt's Kenny Pickett, Cincinnati's Desmond Ridder and Nevada's Carson Strong.

"It's going to make for a fun, pre-draft process with people trying to figure these guys out," Nagy said. □

## Knicks Go facing loaded field in Breeders' Cup Classic



Associated Press

By **BETH HARRIS**  
AP Racing Writer

**DEL MAR, Calif. (AP)** — A loaded field with impressive resumes. And the Kentucky Derby winner won't even be the favorite. The Breeders' Cup Classic is a fitting finale to the world championships, with the heavyweights battling for Horse of the Year honors. At 5-2, Knicks Go is the early favorite for Saturday's \$6 million Classic at Del

Mar. He's one of two entries from trainer Brad Cox, who also saddles Belmont Stakes winner and 3-1 second choice Essential Quality. Both could clinch divisional honors with a victory or solid showing.

"Both horses have had great years and hopefully we can add to their resume," said Cox, who has seven Cup wins in his career.

Knicks Go is likely to bolt out

of the starting gate and set the early pace.

"We're probably getting a pace similar or maybe even hotter than it was in the Kentucky Derby," Cox said. "It's very rare for a horse to do what Knicks Go can do. You don't always see horses that are capable of running as quick as he can and clearing. He really accelerates in the turns."

Trained by Bob Baffert, Medina Spirit, who won the Kentucky Derby and then failed a post-race drug test, is the co-third choice at 4-1, along with Belmont Stakes runner-up Hot Rod Charlie.

At last year's Breeders' Cup, Hot Rod Charlie was a 94-1 shot who finished second to Essential Quality in the Juvenile. He was third in the Kentucky Derby and lost again to Essential Quality in the Belmont. □

## Rodgers sought treatments instead of COVID-19 vaccine

By **BARRY WILNER**  
AP Pro Football Writer

Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers said Friday he sought alternative treatments instead of the NFL-endorsed COVID-19 vaccinations because of an allergy he has to ingredients in two of the FDA-approved shots. Speaking on SiriusXM's "Pat McAfee Show," Rodgers said: "I'm not an anti-vax, flat-earthier. I have an allergy to an ingredient that's in the mRNA vaccines. I found a long-term immunization protocol to protect myself and I'm very proud of the research that went into that." Rodgers, who has been tested daily as part of NFL protocols for the unvaccinated, came up positive for the coronavirus on Wednesday. He said he didn't feel

well on Thursday but was much better on Friday.

He can't rejoin the Packers for 10 days, missing Sunday's game at Kansas City. Rodgers must have a negative test to return to the team on Nov. 13. Rodgers told McAfee he has concerns about potential fertility issues had he taken one of the vaccinations. In July, three doctors who specialize in reproductive health vouched for the safety of vaccinations for couples who want to have a baby and urged people to seek out their doctors or nurse practitioners with any questions.

Dr. Stephanie Broadwell of Sanford Health Fargo, Dr. Stephanie Foughty of Altru Health Devils Lake and Dr. Ana Tobiaz of Sanford Health Bismarck basically said to get the vaccine. □



# Scott Hamilton & Friends skating event to battle cancer

By **BARRY WILNER**  
**AP Sports Writer**

Scott Hamilton always will be known as an Olympic gold medalist.

Another part of his legacy is establishing a place for figure skaters to earn a living after their competitive careers when he created the Stars on Ice tour in the 1980s.

What Hamilton, a cancer survivor, is doing now with his foundation (ScottCARES.org) could dwarf all of his other achievements. His fifth annual Scott Hamilton & Friends event at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville on Nov. 21 will focus on the fight to conquer Glioblastoma, a particularly deadly form of cancer.

The show, which will feature a bevy of Olympic skaters, including champions Katia Gordeeva and Ilia Kulik, plus such musical stars as Lady A, Grace Potter, Mar-en Morris, For King & Country, and Cece Winans, also will pay tribute to Michael Busbee, the Nashville songwriter, record producer, publisher and instrumentalist who passed away in 2019 from the disease.

"The statistics are getting worse for people with cancer," Hamilton says. "They were trending better but COVID denied people the ability to get the care they needed. It's been a pretty rugged year for people trying to get through cancer."



Associated Press

The show's focus on Glioblastoma is two-pronged, inspired by both Busbee and Scott Williams, an Arkansan who reached out to Hamilton's organization as he was going through treatment.

"Scott heard about me and picked up my book, 'The Great Eight,' and decided he wanted to help us raise money for Glioblastoma brain cancer research," Hamilton says. "He wanted to ride a bicycle the length of the Natchez Trace Parkway, 444 miles. We thought, 'What in the world?' Scott felt he was called for this." Hamilton put Williams in touch with a fellow cyclist working within the organi-

zation, and the two of them completed the trip on time despite running into obstacles that included a tornado.

"Scott was bringing us something powerful and unique," Hamilton says, noting that they received donations from 27 states and three countries. "He brought us a focus on a form of cancer that really has no hope, but he gave us hope. He gave us an understanding that with that tireless hope you could accomplish remarkable things."

Busbee's family and many of his artists readily got involved in the concert/skating show. Proceeds will fund Glioblastoma re-

search through the Scott Hamilton CARES Foundation dedicated to changing the future of cancer by funding advanced, innovative research that treats the cancer while sparing the patient.

"We talked to his wife, Jessie, and said we would really like to celebrate Busbee's life and music in this show, and try to bring together as much financial resources as possible to fund research," Hamilton explains. "She said absolutely and reached out to Busbee's artists so we could put a spotlight on this gentleman and celebrate his life and memory."

"We believe in God-sched-

uled opportunities and we really want to do the best we can and the most we can for Busbee and his wife Jessie and the family and his music. And try to change the outcome for people with this form of cancer."

Potter, a three-time Grammy nominee, has a background in skating and even told Hamilton she'd like to be on the ice during rehearsals. He joked that maybe she could perform a song while skating.

"It has been a humbling honor to be involved in this year's CARES benefit with Scott Hamilton," Jessie Busbee says. "He and his team are warriors for cancer research, and I truly believe the event this year has the potential to be a major marker in the fight against Glioblastoma — the deadliest form of brain cancer. My beloved husband's life, ultimate death, and legacy has opened a door to making some major strides in the realm of glioblastoma research and treatment."

Hamilton promised "a couple of surprises" at the event, which is not being televised — though he would welcome any outlet interested in broadcasting the show.

"The only time this show will be performed and the only ones who will see it," he says, "will be present in the Bridgestone Arena." □

## Yorkshire cricket boss quits as racism crisis shakes sport

**LONDON (AP)** — The chairman of Yorkshire County Cricket Club quit on Friday as the club struggled to contain a crisis over its handling of a former player's racism allegations that have shaken the sport.

Roger Hutton said he resigned "with immediate effect." He cited the club's unwillingness to accept the claims by former player Azeem Rafiq and its refusal to apologize.

"There has been a constant unwillingness from the executive members

of the board and senior management at the club to apologize, and to accept that there was racism, and to look forward," Hutton said. "For much of my time at the club, I experienced a culture that refuses to accept change or challenge." He apologized "unreservedly" to Rafiq. Hutton also urged the board to follow him and three members have stepped down: Hanif Malik and Stephen Willis. Neil Hartley said he'll leave after a transition.

Hutton was replaced by Kamlesh Patel, the chair of the England and Wales Cricket Board's South Asian advisory group and a former board member. Patel said Yorkshire "needs to learn from its past errors, regain trust and rebuild relationships with our communities." Rafiq, a former England Under-19 captain, said in interviews last year that as a Muslim he was made to feel like an "outsider" during his time at Yorkshire from 2008-18 and he was close to tak-



Associated Press

ing his own life. A formal investigation was commissioned by Yorkshire in September 2020 into 43 allegations made by Rafiq, with seven of them upheld in a report released only in September under pressure from lawmakers.

It found Rafiq — a former captain — was the victim

of racial harassment and bullying.

But it also said a racial slur directed at Rafiq was delivered "in the spirit of friendly banter." And the club said it would not take any disciplinary action against any of its employees, players or executives. □



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